



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD/ IOWA SEX OFFENDER RESEARCH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING

**Iowa Utilities Board Building
Rooms 1-2, 1st Level
1375 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa**

November 18, 2015

Present: *PSAB:* Tom Walton, Chair; Kim Cheeks; DeAnn Decker; Tom Ferguson; Mary Kovacevich; Michelle Leonard; Lettie Prell; Kurt Swaim; Tony Thompson; Doug Wolfe; Dale Woolery
Ex-officio: Hon. Romonda Belcher; Rep. Bob Kressig; Hon. Jeffrey Neary; Sen. Charles Schneider; Sen. Steven Soddors

SORC: Rebecca Stout for Beth Barnhill; Jerry Bartruff; Tom Ferguson; Binnie LeHew; Tim Ross; Kurt Swaim; Becky DeCarlo for Tony Tatman
Ex-officio: Sen. Tom Shipley;

Staff: Steve Michael; Kile Beisner; Cheryl Davidson; Sarah Johnson; Julie Rinker; Lanette Watson

Others: Angel Banks-Adams; Jean Basinger; Sheila Corsbie; Anna Hyatt-Crozier; Cathy Engel; JoAnn Finkenbinder; Sara Nelson; Marty Ryan

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Tom Walton, Chair, welcomed those in attendance at 10:09 a.m. A quorum was present for both the Public Safety Advisory Board and the Sex Offender Research Council. Introductions were made.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **PSAB – September 16, 2015**

Kurt Swaim moved to approve the minutes from the September, 2015 meeting, seconded by Tom Ferguson. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **SORC – November 19, 2014**

Kurt Swaim moved to approve the minutes from the November, 2014 meeting, seconded by Binnie LeHew. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Governor's Work Group on Justice Policy Reform

Michael reported on the recommendations from the Governor's Working Group on Criminal Justice Policy Reform (GWG).

- Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts
- Increasing the Diversity of Jury Pools
- Confidentiality of Juvenile Delinquency Records
- Prison and Jail Phone Calls

Michael noted that during the GWG meetings there was discussion to refer further study to the Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB). Although it was not specifically referenced in the report, the [press release](#) indicated that the GWG was hopeful the PSAB would continue to review issues.

Other areas of concern reviewed by the GWG are listed on the Governor's [website](#) and could be considered for future study topics.

The following was discussed:

- Michael reported that State Court Administration has received a grant to study drug court models and create statewide standards to create a uniform process for all drug courts in Iowa. CJJP could assist with the study.
- Judge Jeffrey Neary offered to share information on panel- and judge-driven drug courts at a future meeting.
- He suggested that the scope of mental health courts expand to include prevention to keep those with mental health and substance abuse issues from entering the criminal justice system.
- A group of judges is reviewing racial disparity in the system. Neary will share information as appropriate.
- The group discussed a variety of issues regarding the confidentiality of juvenile delinquency records and the impact on youth surrounding employment, college, and military service.

Kurt Swaim moved to have staff review issues and create a list of topics that fall under the PSAB's purview as identified in Iowa Code, seconded by Tom Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved. Staff will present relevant topics for discussion at the next meeting.

IV. Meeting During DHR Legislative Day – March 3, 2016

Michael reported that the Department of Human Rights' will host a legislative breakfast

on March 3rd. Following the breakfast, council and commission meetings will take place. There was consensus to meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

V. Reports

• PSAB Annual Update

Sarah Johnson, CJJP Staff, reviewed the draft report and asked members to identify priority areas for the upcoming legislative session.

After a brief discussion, members identified the following priority issues:

- Changes to Iowa's Child Kidnapping Legislation
- Changes to Iowa's Robbery Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Legislation
- Modifying Penalties for Powder and Crack Cocaine
- Modifying Special Sentence for Sex Offenders

Kim Cheeks suggested adding confidentiality of juvenile delinquency records.

Ferguson moved to approve the draft report with the above-listed priorities. He preferred more information and group discussion before supporting the inclusion of the confidentiality of juvenile delinquency records. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Tony Thompson and was unanimously approved.

• Human Trafficking

Michael noted that the draft report, "An Analysis of Human Trafficking in Iowa", has been shared with the Sex Offender Research Council (SORC) and could serve as its report to the legislature. The report is being shared with the PSAB for endorsement.

Johnson reported on difficulties in finding human trafficking convictions in Iowa. The recommendations of the report are to create improvements to track crimes of this nature, implement training for law enforcement and county attorneys, develop best practices for prosecution of victims, and implement services for trafficking victims.

Discussion included:

- Department of Human Services (DHS) trains case managers around the federal 'Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act'. When found, victims are referred for child abuse assessment. DHS has recommended aligning state code around the Act.
- Several efforts are underway to develop best practices to identify victims and implement services to assist them.
- Training is being provided to law enforcement and prosecution.
- LeHew suggested training for community providers be included in the recommendations.
- LeHew also suggested that the best-practice model include the identification of victims of human trafficking to assist them in the acquisition of services.

PSAB—Michelle Leonard moved to adopt the report with the aforementioned changes, seconded by Doug Wolfe. The motion was unanimously approved.

SORC—Kurt Swaim moved to approve the report with the aforementioned changes, seconded by Jerry Bartruff. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Issues for Next Meeting
• Other Business (PSAB/SORC)

Representative Bob Kressig reviewed the proposed HF100 legislation. He noted that Iowa is one of 17 states that doesn't terminate custody and visitation rights when a rapist fathers a child. This legislation seeks to do so.

Discussion included that there could be constitutional challenge to the legislation and that there are situations where these fathers are involved in parenting. There was no further discussion.

Kressig thanked the group for their comments and will continue his support of the legislation.

VII. Adjournment

The PSAB agreed to meet on the following dates in 2016:

March 3
May 18
September 21
November 16

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning